

1 **CLAIMS**

2 1. A method comprising:
3 identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
4 determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;
5 adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set; and
6 resolving conflicting policies by selecting a preferred policy and including
7 the preferred policy in the merged policy set.

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9 2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the preferred policy
10 represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple
11 policies.

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13 3. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising determining an
14 allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies.

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16 4. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the preferred policy is
17 contained within an allowed range of values associated with the multiple policies.

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19 5. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising deleting policies
20 that are outside an allowed range of values, wherein the allowed range of values is
21 associated with the multiple policies.

1 6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting a preferred policy
2 includes:

3 arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local
4 policies;

5 determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates; and

6 selecting the preferred policy template based on the intersection of the
7 conflicting policy templates.

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9 7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein selecting a preferred policy
10 includes:

11 arranging conflicting policy templates in order from global policies to local
12 policies;

13 determining an intersection of the conflicting policy templates; and

14 selecting the preferred policy template based on the policy template closest
15 to the local policies and within the intersection of the conflicting policy templates.

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17 8. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies are event-
18 handling policies.

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20 9. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies define how a
21 device is to be configured.

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23 10. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the policies identify the
24 types of events that are provided to each device.

1 11. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein resolving conflicting
2 policies includes comparing related policies individually.

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4 12. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is implemented
5 by a management module.

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7 13. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
8 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
9 1.

10
11 14. A method comprising:
12 identifying multiple policies to be combined together;
13 determining whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;
14 adding non-conflicting policies to a merged policy set;
15 arranging conflicting policies in order from global policies to local policies;
16 determining an intersection of the conflicting policies; and
17 selecting a preferred policy based on the policy closest to the local policies
18 and within the intersection of the conflicting policies.

19
20 15. A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the preferred policy
21 represents a preferred range of values associated with at least one of the multiple
22 policies.

1 **16.** A method as recited in claim 15 further comprising deleting policies
2 that are outside the preferred range of values.

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4 **17.** A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies are event-
5 handling policies.

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7 **18.** A method as recited in claim 14 wherein the policies determine how
8 an associated device is configured.

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10 **19.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer
11 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim
12 14.

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14 **20.** An apparatus comprising:
15 a storage device configured to store a merged policy set; and
16 a management module coupled to the storage device and configured to
17 identify multiple policies to be merged into the merged policy set, wherein the
18 management module adds non-conflicting policies to the merged policy set and
19 resolves conflicts among conflicting policies.

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21 **21.** An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein resolving conflicts
22 among conflicting policies includes selecting a preferred policy and including the
23 preferred policy in the merged policy set.

1 **22.** An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein resolving conflicts
2 among conflicting policies includes arranging conflicting policy templates in
3 order from global policies to local policies, determining the intersection of the
4 conflicting policy templates, and selecting the preferred policy template based on
5 the policy template that is closest to the local policies and within the intersection
6 of the conflicting policy templates.

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8 **23.** An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the management
9 module is part of an enterprise computing system.

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11 **24.** An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the management
12 module receives event data generated by a plurality of event providers coupled to
13 the management module.

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15 **25.** An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple policies
16 define how devices are configured in an enterprise.

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18 **26.** An apparatus as recited in claim 20 wherein the multiple policies
19 identify the types of events that are provided to each device in an enterprise.
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1 **27.** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a
2 computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one
3 or more processors to:

4 identify multiple policies to be combined together in a merged policy set;

5 determine whether any conflicts exist between the multiple policies;

6 include non-conflicting policies in the merged policy set;

7 resolve conflicting policies by:

8 selecting an allowed policy range;

9 selecting a preferred policy range that is included in the allowed
10 policy range; and

11 including the preferred policy range in the merged policy set.

12
13 **28.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 27
14 wherein the policies are event-handling policies.

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16 **29.** One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 27
17 wherein the policies identify the types of events that are provided to devices in an
18 enterprise.
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